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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/041,576	01/10/2002	Ioana Donescu	01807.001935	5216

5514 7590 03/21/2005

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

BAYAT, ALI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/041,576

Applicant(s)

DONESCU, IOANA

Examiner

Ali Bayat

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2002.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-15, 19-22 and 29-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 16-18 and 23-28 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/13/02; 4/17/02
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: Reasons for allowance of claims 1-3,16-18and 23-28.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 4-15, 19-22 and 29-37 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot be dependent from another multiple dependent claim(s). See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, claims 4-15, 19-22 and 29-37 have not been further treated on the merits.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3, 16-18 and 23-28 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of Nguyen (US 6,792,128) provides for "inserting additional information, such as a digital signal, in a digital image, comprises the following steps: detecting the points of interest in said image; selecting a subset of points of interest adapted to define a geometric reference frame in said image; calculating, for the geometric reference frame, reference information necessary for determining the geometric transformation applied to the image for a class of predetermined geometric transformation, coding said reference information in a reference key; and inserting the additional information in said digital image" col.2 lines 49-60. Nguyen failed to teach or suggest for "determining amongst at least some of said regions, a set of so-called acceptable regions, adapted to receive said at least one item of watermarking information; and sequencing, according to at least one predetermined criterion, at least one part of said set of acceptable regions, in an order which is invariant with respect to at least one of said geometric transformations" in combination into other features and elements of claims 1-3, 16-18 and 23-28.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters as set in paragraph 1 of this office action.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Bayat whose telephone number is 703-306-5915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 9:00-7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 703-3085246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ali Bayat AB
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2625
3/15/05


KANISHAI PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER